Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A latch assembly, comprising:

an engagement member having an aperture formed therein; and

a locking member having an axis, a first portion of the locking member configured to extend through the aperture in a direction parallel to the axis, the locking member being movable axially between a first position wherein the locking member engages the engagement member so as to restrict rotation of the locking member about the axis, and a second position wherein the locking member is free to rotate about the axis relative to the engagement member, the first portion of the locking member including a first groove formed on an end of the first portion that extends through the aperture, and the assembly further includes a positive lock member removably biased into the groove to provide a fixed first position and removable from the groove to define the second position.

2. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein moving to the first position includes pulling the locking member away from the engagement member.

3. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein moving to the second position includes pushing the locking member toward the engagement member.

4. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the engagement member is an escutcheon plate.

5. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~first portion of the locking member includes a~~ first groove ~~formed on an end thereof that extends through the aperture, and the assembly further includes a~~ extends around a circumference of the first locking portion, and the positive lock member ~~removeably biased into the groove to provide a fixed first position and removable from the groove to define the second position~~ slides within the groove when the locking member rotates about the axis.

6. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the locking member includes a retaining groove formed on an end thereof that extends through the aperture, and the assembly further includes a retaining clip configured to mount to the retaining groove to retain the locking member in the aperture.

7. (currently amended) The assembly of claim [[5]] 1, further comprising a bushing having a slot, the bushing being configured for positioning between the aperture and the locking member, wherein ~~and~~ the slot is aligned with the first groove to provide access for the positive locking member into the first groove.

8. (original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a bushing positioned between the locking member and the engagement member, and the locking member includes a locking tab that engages the bushing to prevent rotation of the bushing about the axis.

9. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the locking member includes a handle that extends in a direction perpendicular to the axis.

10. (original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a live bolt assembly and a spindle coupled to the live bolt assembly and the locking member, whereby rotation of the locking member about the axis actuates the live bolt.

11. (original) The assembly of claim 10, further comprising a handle assembly separate from the locking member, wherein the spindle is further coupled to the handle assembly.

12. (original) The assembly of claim 1, configured for use with a storm door.

13. (currently amended) A handle assembly, comprising:

a generally cylindrical shank having an axis and a locking feature;

an engagement member including a generally cylindrical bore that extends through the engagement member, the bore being configured to permit the locking feature of the shank to pass through the engagement member;

a spindle operable by the shank, wherein a portion of the spindle passes through the bore; and

a live bolt assembly engaged by the spindle so as to be actuated by the spindle;

wherein the shank is movable in a direction parallel to the axis between a first position wherein the locking feature of the shank engages the engagement member so as to prohibit the shank from rotating about the axis, and a second position wherein the locking feature of the shank is positioned outside of the bore and free to rotate about the axis relative to the engagement member.

14. (original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein movement between the first and second positions includes pushing the shank along the axis towards the engagement member, and movement between the second and first positions includes pulling the shank along the axis away from the engagement member.

15. (original) The assembly of claim 13, further comprising a handle secured to the shank and extending in a direction perpendicular to the axis.

16. (original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the engagement member is an escutcheon plate.

17. (currently amended) A method of locking a latch assembly, the latch assembly including a locking member and an engagement member ~~having~~ defining an aperture sized to receive the locking member, the locking member including a shank and a locking protrusion extending radially from the shank, the locking member being rotatable relative to the engagement member about an axis extending through the aperture, the method comprising the steps of:

moving the locking member in a first direction along the axis into a first position relative to the engagement member wherein the locking ~~member~~ protrusion engages the engagement member to prohibit rotation of the locking member about the axis; and

moving the locking member in a second direction along the axis into a second position relative to the engagement member wherein the locking ~~member~~ protrusion is removed from the engagement member and is free to rotate about the axis.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein moving in the first direction includes pulling the locking member away from the engagement member.

19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein moving in the second direction includes pushing the locking member toward the engagement member.

20. (currently amended) A door assembly, comprising:

a door having first and second opposed primary surfaces and a bore formed between the first and second primary surfaces; and

a latch assembly mounted to the first primary surface of the door adjacent to the bore, the latch assembly comprising:

an engagement member having an aperture formed therein that extends between opposing primary surfaces of the engagement member; and

a locking member having ~~an axis, a portion of the locking member~~ a cylindrical shank portion configured to extend through the aperture ~~in a direction parallel to the axis~~ and a locking feature formed on the shank portion, the locking member being movable between a first position wherein the locking ~~member~~ feature is positioned within the aperture and engages the engagement member so as to restrict rotation of the locking member about the axis, and a second position wherein the locking ~~member~~ feature is positioned outside of the aperture and disengaged from the engagement member so as to provide unrestricted rotation of the locking member ~~is free to rotate about the axis~~ relative to the engagement member.

21. (original) The assembly of claim 20, wherein the latch assembly further comprises a spindle and a live bolt assembly, the live bolt assembly and the locking member being engaged by the spindle such that rotation of the locking member about the axis actuates the live bolt assembly.

22. (previously presented)The assembly of claim 21, wherein the latch assembly further comprises a handle assembly mounted to the second primary surface of the door adjacent to the bore, and the locking member and the handle assembly are engaged by the spindle through the bore.

23. (original) The assembly of claim 20, wherein the locking member further includes a handle extending in a direction perpendicular to the axis.

24. (currently amended) A locking handle configured to lock relative to an engagement member by pulling the handle in a first direction relative to the engagement member to engage a first portion of the handle with the engagement member, and unlocks relative to the engagement member by pushing the handle in a second direction relative to the engagement member that is opposite the first direction to disengage the first portion of the handle from the engagement member, wherein the handle locks and unlocks relative to the engagement member without rotating the handle about an axis parallel to the first ~~direction~~ and second directions, wherein a positive lock member engages the handle to retain the locking handle in the locked and unlocked positions, the positive lock member being movable in a direction perpendicular to the first and second directions.

25. (previously presented)The handle of claim 24, wherein the handle includes a second portion secured to and extending in a generally perpendicular direction from the first portion and being rotatable about the axis.

26. (original) The handle of claim 24, wherein the first direction is a direction extending away from the engagement member and the second direction is a direction extending toward the engagement member.

27. (original) The handle of claim 24, wherein movement between the first and second positions does not require rotation of the handle about the axis.